



Building a Strong Base to Support Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia

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The basic structure that SEAFDEC molded into a strong support to promote sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia makes SEAFDEC the deserving recipient of the of the most prestigious Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award for the biennium 2006-2007. Given biennially by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, this award recognizes the efforts of SEAFDEC in promoting the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the ASEAN Region. The Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award is given biennially in honor of the late Dr. Margarita Lizarraga, FAO Senior Fishery Liaison Officer for her „decisive role in promoting the CCRF and for her productive work in the field of fisheries particularly in developing countries for almost 40 years%. The announcement that Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award for the biennium 2006-2007 goes to SEAFDEC, came at the most appropriate time as SEAFDEC celebrates its 40th anniversary in December 2007.

Making the global CCRF comprehensible for the Southeast Asian fisherfolk

After the adoption of the global CCRF in October of 1995, SEAFDEC initiated a program on the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (RCCRF) starting in 1998. The RCCRF took into consideration the Southeast Asian region's specific context, encompassing

its culture, its fisheries structure, and the region's fishery ecosystems and came up with regional guidelines accommodating the specific regional concerns that the global CCRF might have failed to highlight and where the issues of particular importance to Southeast Asia are amplified and elaborated on under the framework of the global CCRF. From the formulation of the regional guidelines on responsible fisheries (**Box 1**) until their dissemination, the RCCRF has been financially supported by the Government of Japan through its Trust Fund from 1998 to 2004. A follow up activity on human resource development to support the implementation of the regional guidelines in the Southeast Asian region has since then been advanced with the support of the Government of Sweden through its Swedish National Board of Fisheries from 2003 to 2006.

While adhering to its objectives (**Box 2**), the RCCRF has been able to bridge the gaps between the internationally adopted initiatives and the actual implementation of the CCRF at regional, national and local levels as the regional guidelines were promoted to a wide range of stakeholders from the high-level policy-makers, managers, scientists/researchers, technicians, the private sector down to the fishers. Since the RCCRF was initiated and reviewed through the SEAFDEC and ASEAN collaborative mechanism, the full mobilization of the competence of these two organizations made the implementation of the CCRF

Box 1: Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia

Responsible Fishing Operations: supports the implementation of Article 8 (Fishing Operations) of the CCRF

Responsible Aquaculture: provides supplementary guidance to Article 9 of the CCRF

Responsible Fisheries Management: supports the implementation of Article 7 (Fisheries Management) of the CCRF

Responsible Post-harvest Practices and Trade: serves as reference in identifying directions and priority actions for the implementation of Article 11 (Post-harvest Practices and Trade) of the CCRF

Supplementary Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: substantiating the Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management, comprises: (1) Co-management Using Group User Rights for Small-scale Fisheries; (2) Fishery Statistics for Capture Fisheries; (3) Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries; and (4) Use of Fisheries *Refugia* for Capture Fisheries Management

Box 2: Objectives of the Regionalization of the CCRF by SEAFDEC

- To clarify the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- To identify and prioritize the required actions
- To identify the issues that require special consideration from the regional point of view
- To formulate regional policies that would help the ASEAN member countries in implementing the global Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
- To facilitate the formulation and implementation by the ASEAN member countries of national codes of practices for responsible fishing operations, fisheries management, aquaculture, and post-harvest practices and trade

Beyond Winning the Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award

Receiving the Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award for the biennium 2006-2007 is indeed one of the most colorful events in the history of SEAFDEC. Building an ongoing base of support for the development of sustainable fisheries remains an ultimate goal, and SEAFDEC is not resting on its laurels nor hanging its anchor as it continues to sail towards achieving responsible fisheries development in the region.

It is towards this objective that SEAFDEC convened the Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the CCRF in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 October 2007. While considering the recommendations made at the Regional Seminar (**Box 3**), SEAFDEC will continue to conduct activities that would strengthen the base that it has started to mold to fully support the promotion of responsible fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

Acknowledgment

SEAFDEC is very grateful to all those who have worked relentlessly for the promotion of the CCRF especially in Southeast Asia. To the SEAFDEC Member Countries for embracing the regional guidelines under the global CCRF framework and for their efforts in formulating national plans of action making the regional guidelines implementable at the national and local levels; to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the technical Departments for coming up with the regional guidelines after thorough consultations with the Member Countries; to the Government of Japan for providing assistance in the production and dissemination of the regional guidelines through its Trust Fund Program; to the Government of Sweden for their support in developing the region's human resource capability in adopting the CCRF

in the region possible putting the actual implementation of the CCRF in the Southeast Asian region in its proper perspective. In addition to the changes of their respective national policies and programs based on the RCCR, the impact of the CCRF in the region has been multiplied through human resource development and awareness building activities conducted by SEAFDEC leading to sustained promotion of responsible fisheries in the ASEAN member countries.



The set of Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia

Box 3: Box 3. Future Activities to Promote the CCRF in Southeast Asia

(Recommendations made at the Regional Seminar on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Bangkok, Thailand, 22 October 2007)

- (1) Conduct of an in-depth study to identify the common areas of concerns in the Member Countries related to the implementation of CCRF;
- (2) Integrate human resource development (HRD) requirements in the SEAFDEC programs and develop regional package to support the implementation of the CCRF at local and grassroots levels;
- (3) Further promote fisheries management through the Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (RSAC) serving as a forum where SEAFDEC could provide support to the Member Countries;
- (4) Carry-out regular evaluation of the compliance by the Member Countries with the CCRF by developing Key Performance Indicators (with quantitative measurements); and
- (5) Further develop information packages on the principles and importance of CCRF for promotion at national and local levels, specifically targeting the high ranking policy and political levels to ensure policy support in the national implementation of the CCRF.

through the Swedish National Board of Fisheries; and finally to the peoples of Southeast Asia for their faith and confidence in the CCRF viewing it as beneficial not only to their own livelihoods but also to those of their children's children.

Winning the Medal Award gives SEAFDEC more inspiration and aspiration to set higher sights in promoting responsible fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. Just like the late Margarita Lizarraga who incessantly promoted the adoption of the CCRF and who dedicated 40 years of her life to fisheries service in developing countries, SEAFDEC in thanking the FAO for the Medal Award, assures FAO and other sponsors that SEAFDEC will persistently continue to promote responsible fisheries in the Southeast Asian region under the framework of the CCRF.

About The Author

Siri Ekmaharaj, Ph.D. is the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. He received the Margarita Lizarraga Medal Award for the biennium 2006-2007 on behalf of SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy in November 2007.

FISH for the PEOPLE

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CALL FOR ARTICLES

Several issues of Fish for the People were already published from 2003 to 2006 and the Publication is now on its Fifth Volume. We are inviting in-house writers who are interested in promoting the activities of SEAFDEC in the Southeast Asian region as well as writers from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, to contribute articles for the Publication.

Fish for the People takes several sections, such as: Special Feature (usually giving a theme to the issue), Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Fish Trade and Post-harvest Technology, Announcements on important SEAFDEC events, and the Event Calendar.

Fish for the People is currently a free publication. It receives a generous support from the Government of Japan's Trust Fund. The Publication primarily intends to make known the activities of SEAFDEC as well as other relevant fisheries issues from the SEAFDEC Member Countries. While the focus is on promoting fishery issues in the Southeast Asian region, we also welcome articles on important fishery issues from other regions external to SEAFDEC.

An Editorial Team for the Publication was organized in 2006 comprising the editor-representatives from the SEAFDEC Departments. Writers from the Departments are therefore, requested to contact their respective Editor-Representatives or they can also communicate directly to the Secretariat-based Editors (fish@seafdec.org).

The Publication is policy-orientated. It is not a forum for research findings and it is not also intended to provide detailed technical information. In other words, the Publication does not contain typical scientific papers but instead articles that are in popular or layman language and easy to read papers especially to all our stakeholders. Popular and readable articles that address the various issues discussed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference will be most desired. The articles could also discuss newly emerging issues relevant to the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.